

NORTH BAY WATER DISTRICT  
22950 BROADWAY, SONOMA, CA 95476  
Board of Directors

Mike Mulas, President and Chair (Sonoma Valley); Craig Jacobsen, Vice-President (Petaluma Valley); Carolyn Wasem, Secretary (Petaluma Valley); Matthew Stornetta, Treasurer (Sonoma Valley); and Mike Sangiacomo (Sonoma Valley)

PVGSA Advisor: Eugene Comozzi      SVGSA Advisor: Jim Bundschu

**MEETING MINUTES**

Date: August 11, 2020

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: 22950 Broadway, Schell-Vista Station #1 (via Teleconference due to Covid-19 Shelter-in-Place Order)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair, Mike Mulas, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Chair Mike Mulas, Director(s) Craig Jacobsen, Matt Stornetta, Mike Sangiacomo, and Carolyn Wasem were present. Also, in attendance Counselor Richard Idell, guest Mike Martini, and Advisor Eugene Comozzi.

2. CLOSED SESSION

There were no closed session items.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chair Mulas asked for approval of the July 2020 Minutes. Director Jacobsen made the motion to approve the July 2020 Minutes. Director Sangiacomo seconded the motion. The minutes for the June 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Chair Mulas reported that the current bank balance is: \$5484.55. NBWD received the second installment for funding from SAVE. Director Wasem made the motion to approve the Financial Report. Director Sangiacomo

seconded the motion. The Financial Report was unanimously approved. The next installments are due the end of September/early October.

## 6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

### **Item 1. Report from Counselor Richard Idell**

Counselor Idell informed the Board about the election process. The three incumbents will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for re-appointment to the NBWD Board. County Counsel has provided a date of August 18<sup>th</sup> to approve NBWD bylaws. County Counsel asked if we have a conflict of interest policy. Counselor Idell will consider if a policy is needed and provide a draft of a policy at the request of the NBWD Board.

The incumbents will be appointed on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Mulas asked about finding insurance for the Board. He stated that he had challenges explaining why it is needed. Guest Mike Martini will provide the name of his insurance provider so that Chair Mulas can follow up on this issue.

### **Item 2. Report from Director Sangiacomo**

Director Sangiacomo reported that the last GSA meeting was held on July 27<sup>th</sup>. NBWD was shown as in arrears in their payment for their participation in the GSA. At that meeting, the GSA Board approved expenditures of Proposition 68 grant dollars of \$533,500. The expenditures associated with that funding will cover the following:

Monitoring Wells: \$347,350

Pilot Geophysics Project: \$24,400

Technical Services: GW Use Estimates Land Use Planning: \$94,250

Community Stakeholder Engagement: \$66,400

The GSA Board of Directors also received an update on the Advisory Committee Activities. The last meeting focused on seawater intrusion and land subsidence in the basin. The Advisory Committee supported recommendations

for managing Sustainable Management Criteria on Seawater Intrusion and Land Subsidence, including:

- Containing Seawater Intrusion from moving inland
- Minimum Thresholds of 250 mg/L chloride
- Undesirable Results – w/ three consecutive years of threshold exceedances
- Any irrecoverable subsidence due to groundwater pumping is considered unreasonable
- Annual MT set at .1 feet
- Cap on total amount of subsidence
- Assessment of ground-water levels

Specific to groundwater subsidence, Jay Jaspers presented information that indicates the following:

- Existing data does not indicate a subsidence issue
- Monthly measurements of subsidence are occurring using InSAR data. A challenge with this data is that it does not distinguish if subsidence is related to groundwater pumping.
- While zero inelastic subsidence due to pumping is the desire, the proposed annual MT is 0.1 feet per year of total subsidence is suggested.
- The MT will also represent the MO (Measurable Objective)

The Advisory Committee agreed that Option 2 to identify undesirable subsidence results. That option includes the following:

- (1) The minimum threshold is exceeded, OR (2) within any five year period cumulative total subsidence exceeds 0.2 feet<sup>1</sup> in any area (even if each year's annual subsidence rate is less than the MT), AND subsidence is determined to be correlated with groundwater level declines due to groundwater pumping.

Ann Dubay then discussed the Rural Community Engagement Contract. The outside consultant was considered for the purpose of community outreach and advocacy for participation from rural groundwater (including agriculture) in a plan and a fee structure associated with pumping groundwater.

Guest Martini suggested that SGMA, and the ongoing process of developing a sustainable groundwater plan is off the table for a lot of people because of the challenges everyone is facing. And in recent discussions with Sonoma Water, the feeling is that Jay is sincere about engaging agriculture more in terms of the model, recharge and farm plans.

Director Mulas made a motion to formalize Mike Martini as the SGMA Compliance Advisor for NBWD. Director Jacobsen seconded the motion. The motion to appoint Mike Martini as NBWD's SGMA Advisor was unanimously approved.

### **Item 3. Report from Director Wasem**

Director Wasem shared that there had been no Petaluma GSA meeting since the last NBWD meeting. The next Petaluma GSA meeting is scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup>. However, Director Wasem participated in a discussion with Supervisor Gore regarding Potter Valley and Alexander Valley.

Supervisor Gore is interested in creating/utilizing a farm-based agency to provide input into flood control in Alexander Valley. He thought that same Agency could be used long-term to inform and implement the Potter Valley plan. Supervisor Gore and Director Wasem are coalescing a group of growers in Alexander Valley to further those discussions.

Director Wasem suggested that if NBWD chose to expand its boundaries and was interested in assuming the lead in those two projects, that would be an appropriate role for NBWD.

Director Wasem shared with Supervisor Gore that she would be willing to have those conversations with the NBWD Board. And once, NBWD got through the election we could discuss future roles for the District.

Chair Mulas, and the Board members agreed that this is an action – expanding NBWD's boundaries that needs to be a priority.

### **Item 4. Advisor Bundschu did not attend and had no report.**

## **Item 5. Report from Advisor Comozzi**

Advisor Comozzi informed the Board that Santa Rosa is more involved in Petaluma and Sonoma Valley regions than one might think. The City of Santa Rosa has purchased several properties – and, for solid waste disbursement.

Guest Martini made a minor clarification: It is not the City of Santa Rosa, but the sub-regional system.

Advisor Comozzi also informed the directors that there had not been an Advisory Committee meeting since the GSA July meeting. The next meeting for the Advisory Committee will be August 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Item 6. Report from Guest Martini**

Guest Martini shared that he and Director Wasem had participated in calls with Dr. Roger Boulton and Sonoma Water regarding the Farm Plan that would be incorporated into the regional GSA Plan.

Dr. Boulton found errors in some of the assumptions that the model is using, specific to grapes and water use. The conversations with Sonoma Water covered the following topics:

- 1) Water Model – assumptions that need clarification and Dr. Boulton’s draft water model for broad use in the agriculture community.
- 2) A draft of the Farm Plan chapters needed to address the mandates of SGMA. Those chapters titles were provided in detail for Sonoma Water’s input and response.
- 3) Stressing the importance of agriculture drafting and implementing a Farm Plan if the goal is to sustainably manage groundwater. The knowledge associated with farming is needed to create a meaningful sustainable plan, which can only be provided by agriculture.
- 4) Partnerships are in process to address stream flow augmentation with the regulatory agencies that address two of the six deadly sins in SGMA.

Philip Wasem is drafting a chapter for monitoring groundwater levels and groundwater quality for sharing with the Advisory Committees, agriculture interests, and for final drafting by Dr. Boulton.

Additionally, guest Martini discussed an upcoming meeting with LAFCO to discuss the expansion of the NBWD Boundaries. He informed the Board that he would report the outcomes of those conversations at the September NBWD meeting.

#### 7. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no other Business, Carolyn Wasem made the motion for adjournment. Director Jacobsen second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>.